



MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION

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Julie A. Allen

Executive Director

[Date]

Letter to Candidate
Committees, 2 pages

[Committee Name]

[MEC ID]

ATTN: Candidate & Treasurer

RE: Effective August 28, 2010
Senate Bill 844 provisions

Your committee is currently organized as a candidate campaign finance committee formed with the Missouri Ethics Commission (Commission). Senate Bill 844, passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, contains specific changes to Chapter 130 RSMo related to campaign finance committees that become effective **August 28, 2010**.

Enclosed is a Fact Sheet summarizing the provisions of Senate Bill 844. We ask you take the time to review and especially note the following:

- **Candidates** will not be able to file for office or take office until their committees or any committee they served as a treasurer or deputy treasurer of have paid any fees assessed by the Commission. This is in addition to the current law requiring all campaign finance reports from prior elections to be filed before a candidate can file for an office.
- **Treasurers and deputy treasurers** are no longer required to reside in the district or county in which a committee sits (must still be a Missouri resident).
- **New committees cannot be formed by any person, candidate, treasurer, or deputy treasurer** if they have outstanding campaign finance reports due or unpaid fees due to the Commission. Deputy treasurers may not serve on a new committee if in the past he/she served on a committee that is not in compliance (late fees/fines and/or reports due).
- **Disqualified candidates** cannot be selected by a party nominating committee for the same office in the same primary or general election.
- Campaign finance reports filed with the Commission that are **late will be assessed a fee of \$50.00 per day (up from \$10.00)**. This includes late fees for limited activity reports.
- **Current office holders or candidates** for the office of State Representative or State Senator must electronically report to the Commission, within 48 hours of receipt, any

contributions over \$500 during the regular legislative session. Late reports are subject to assessment of late fee.

- **Current office holders or candidates** for the office of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Treasurer, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and State Auditor must electronically report to the Commission, within 48 hours of receipt, any contributions over \$500 during the regular legislative session **and** any time when legislation from the regular legislative session awaits gubernatorial action. Late reports are subject to assessment of late fee.
- **Continuing committees** will now be known as political action committees.
- **Political action committees** can only receive contributions from:
 - Individuals;
 - Unions;
 - Federal political action committees;
 - Corporations, associations, and partnerships formed under Chapters 347-360, RSMo
- **Political action committees** cannot receive contributions from other:
 - Political action committees;
 - Candidate committees;
 - Political party committees;
 - Campaign committees;
 - Exploratory committees;
 - Debt service committees.

However, they may receive contributions from the:

- state House political action committee for each political party as designated by the majority floor leader and minority floor leader of the House of Representatives;
 - state Senate political action committee for each political party as designated by the majority floor leader and minority floor leader; and
 - chair of a state party if the party does not have a majority or minority party status in the House or Senate.
- **All committees** required by law to file their campaign finance reports with the Commission must do so electronically after **January 1, 2011**. (You may download the Personal Identification Number Application (PIN App) and Committee Electronic Filing Agreement (Waiver) from our website.)

Continue to check our website at www.mec.mo.gov for updated information about SB844. Should you have any questions, email the MEC at helpdesk@mec.mo.gov or contact our office at 1-800-392-8660.